

## REMARKS

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference numerals “64”, “80” and “84” not mentioned in the specification. As noted hereinabove, Figure 4 on drawing sheet 2/5 has been corrected to correct this oversight.

Claims 24 – 30 and 33 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, claim 30 is deemed to be unclear as to where the newly added limitations are disclosed in the specification and drawings.

Claim 30 has been amended to, inter alia., delete the offending language. Claim 33 has been canceled.

In view of the above-described amendments to the claims, the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. 112 are deemed to be moot.

Accordingly, in view of the amendments, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 25 – 30 and 33 – 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kruger (U.S. 6,555,070) in view of “3M Interam Mat Product Guide”, either Santiago et al. (U.S. 4,155,980) or Abthoff et al. (U.S. 4,145,394), and Smith et al. (U.S. 5,720,319).

Independent claim 30 has been amended to recite “A *catalytic converter subassembly comprising: an exhaust manifold **formed as a single casting** comprising a **collector body** manifold wall including a thickened section defining an outlet port; a catalytic shell,*

*wherein an end portion of said catalytic converter shell is cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall circumscribing said outlet port to effect a sealed interconnection therebetween; ... and ... a mat protection ring disposed substantially concentrically within said shell and including opposed first and second ends, wherein said first end of said mat protection ring is cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall circumferentially intermediate the end portion of the catalytic converter shell and said outlet port, the second end of said mat protection ring penetrating at least a portion of said mat support material."*

The art of record fails to disclose or suggest the catalytic subassembly as presently claimed. Specifically the cited references do not teach of concentrically disposed converter shell and a mat protective ring, which are both cast in place within a one piece cast exhaust manifold.

Thus amended, claim 1 is clearly distinguishable from the cited references.

Dependent claims 24 – 26 and 28 – 29 are also clearly distinguishable from the cited references for the above-stated reasons.

Accordingly, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Application No. 09/738,251 filed December 15, 2000  
Amendment dated 06-APR-2006  
Reply to Office Action of December 8, 2005

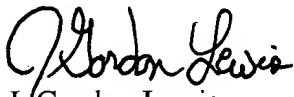
## Conclusion

Applicants believe, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of the claims have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No.: 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,



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## **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please substitute the enclosed drawing sheet 2/5, labeled "Replacement Sheet", for the corresponding sheet presently in the case. The Applicants appreciated the Examiner's assistance in identifying the minor errors in the drawing figures.

In response to the objection to the drawings:

Figure 4 is amended to delete reference numerals 64, 80 and 84, as well as their respective lead lines.

It is believed that the amendments to the drawings address all objections raised by the Office Action. Therefore, it is requested that the objections be withdrawn in view of the amendments to Figure 4, and the remarks above.